

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: USSR

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DATE DISTR. 18 MAR 52

SUBJECT:

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TRIKOTAGEN FACTORY, KIEV

PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.: 5  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF

25X1

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25X1

2. Description of the Trikotagen Factory Kiev: The factory existed already before the war and was equipped at that time with circular spring needle machines for the production of stockings and machinery used for the production of stockinette. At the beginning of the war all the machinery was evacuated to an unknown destination somewhere behind the Urals. The buildings were used during the occupation by German Troops as a supply dump. Soon after the withdrawal of the German Troops the factory was rebuilt and started producing stockings and stockinette material again in 1944. When the German Engineers arrived in October 1946, the factory was in full production, using circular frame looms and warp looms of Russian and German origin. In November 1946 the most modern circular frame looms of American origin arrived, packed in cases marked with the sign "UNRRA". Part of the factory accommodation was occupied at that time by the adjoining wool spinning mill, which was transferred at once with their carding machines into buildings, which had been rebuilt in the meantime.

SECURITY INFORMATION  
**SECRET****SECRET**

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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25X1

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**

-2-

The factory complex consisted of several buildings and was situated in the position 1 indicated on the attached overlay /Enclosure (c) [redacted] for KIYEV (6080) [redacted] compiled in April 1950. The following buildings belonged to the factory complex:

25X1

25X1

- a) Main factory shed, which was about 120 meters long and 20 m wide, contained
  - i) on the ground floor the store-rooms for completed articles and the individual tailoring departments for making ready made articles.
  - ii) on the first floor only cotton machines.
  - iii) on the second floor cotton machines, binding-off machines, stitching machines for stockings, and circular frame machines for tubular fabrics.
  - iv) on the third floor bobbin winding and warp looms.
- b) Administration building contained
  - i) Office accommodation on the ground floor.
  - ii) Recreation rooms for the workers and living quarters on the first floor.
- c) Dyeing house contained
  - i) dye department on the ground floor.
  - ii) Finishing department for stockings on the first floor.
- d) Work shops containing locksmith shop, carpenter shop, etc.
- e) Work's school with rooms for students under instruction.

The factory complex was surrounded with a high fence and unarmed guards patrolled the surroundings of the buildings during the day. At night the guards were armed.

3. Work done by the German Specialists Immediately after Arrival: The specialists arrived in Kiev on 21 October 1946 and were accommodated in rooms on the premises, which they occupied until their return to Germany. They were only allowed 2 days to settle in and started work on 23 October 1946. The German specialists consisted of 10 stocking machine engineers, 4 fitters, 1 needle dresser (Nadelrichter) and 1 electrician. Each of them was then allotted several Russian workers (male and females) to help in the task of erecting the machinery, which was to be assembled in the main factory shed on the first floor. The windows of the individual rooms were bricked up except for a small window about 40 cm square. The rooms had no illumination and were not heated. Some of the machinery, which had arrived from Germany, had been brought into these rooms but the majority of the machines were still stored in the open. Russian engineers had already commenced to assemble some of the machinery, but had not completed the task. As the machines were wrongly assembled, the first job was the dismantling of their work and the German specialists started again from scratch. The following machines had to be erected:

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION****SECRET**

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

14 Jacquard circular knitting machines 42 gg, built by Schubert & Salzer, Chemnitz.

26 Jacquard circular knitting machines 45 gg, built by Schubert & Salzer, Chemnitz.

10 Jacquard 'Press-und Deckmuster' machines 48 gg, built by Schubert & Salzer, Chemnitz.

2 Jacquard 'Press-und Deckmuster' machines 36 gg, built by Schubert & Salzer, Chemnitz.

6 'Kalio' machines 60 gg complete with automatic device for making a double top, built by K. Lieberknecht, Oberlungwitz.

1 Hilscher 'Laengenmaschine' 39 gg of old design for schooling purposes.

1 H.S.L. 'Laengenmaschine' 39 gg of old design for schooling purposes.

25X1

Extreme difficulties were experienced owing to the lack of tools, complete absence of heating and poor lighting conditions until arrangements were made in 1947, to improve these conditions.

Assembled machines were passed by a State Commission and the German stocking machine engineers then had the task of instructing Russian machine operators in the use of the machines.

All the machines had been assembled by the autumn of 1949 except for 13 of the Jacquard circular knitting machines 45 gg, which were assembled by Russian fitters under the supervision of a German fitter.

Although the term of duty had expired the German specialists were not allowed to return to Germany. They were used as production engineers and for essential repairs to the machines, which often broke down owing to incompetent machine operators. The German specialists also instructed Russian engineers in making Jacquard cards for knitting special patterns into the fabrics, explained the general construction of the machines, talked about the care necessary about daily cleaning etc.

4. Production at the Factory: All types of stockings and stockinette material was produced. Only 45 D capron thread of Russian origin was used on the machinery from 42 gg up to 60 gg, whereas on the 36 gg machines a cotton thread with one capron thread was used for making the re-enforced parts of stockings such as the heel, sole and toe. Owing to the fact that the capron thread was subject to high 'Titer' fluctuations, only 30 to 35% of the stocking production was first quality. To overcome this difficulty, a method was introduced to work with 3 threads alternately similar to the process when knitting with pure silk. Stocking rejects were comparatively high, as the female machine operators were unable to adjust the knitting needles correctly. In addition a lot of trouble was caused by the knitting needles themselves, which came from Moscow. These needles were not of standard design, did not have a uniform length, were badly tempered, the hook at the top was distorted and either bent too much or not enough etc. etc.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**

-4-

The capron thread arrived from Moscow, packed into cases with about 100 kgs content. The thread was wound on a bobbin (kreuzspule) weighing about 300 grams. Re-spooling was not necessary, as the bobbins could be used as they were. As soon as the stockings came off the machines, they were graded by an examiner into qualities and then passed on to the binding and stitching department. From here they passed through the fixing department, dye shop to the finishing department, where they were packed. The stockings were then taken into store, from where they were distributed to shops and stores in the area against release notes issued by the competent Ministry.

The factory also produced all types of stockinette material, which was made into ladies underwear and gents shirts in their own sewing shops for ready made garments. The distribution of this type of wearing apparel was also governed by release notes from Moscow.

5. Nominal Roll of German Personalities, Who were Deported to Russia

Approximately 90 German specialists were deported to Russia. These specialists were distributed to various centers in Russia and all have returned to Germany between May and October 1950.

25X1

a) stationed at the Kiev factory:

Paul Arnold

Walter Berger

Otto Ehrst

Max Einkenkel

Gustav Gaerner

Erwin Hartewig

Emil Koehler

Willy Kress

25X1

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~  
SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

-5-

25X1

Fritz Krueger

Georg Richter

Willy Schuetz

Emil Spindler

Eli Thierfelder

Kurt Unger

Karl Walther

Otto Ziller

b) stationed in Leningrad (name of factory Rote Fahne (?))

Otto Grimm

Alfred Lindner

Willy Romkopf

? Schuessler

Willy Steinert

25X1

c) stationed in Kalinin near Moscow:

Fritz Koch

25X1

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
-6-

25X1

d) stationed in Charkov:

Max Wolf

e) stationed in Novo Sibirsk:

Albert Heim

f) stationed in Odessa:

Alfred Fierich

Bruno Kies

Willy Klinger

Alfred Prager

Paul Prager

g) stationed in Vitebsk:

Paul Drechsel

? Wendler

h) stationed in Chernovtsky on the Roumanian border:

? Naumann

Emil Roscher

Karl Uhlmann

i) stationed in Tashkent:

? Loeffler

Arthur Mann

j) stationed in Rostov-on-Don:

Willy Vogel

k) stationed in Moscow:

Bernhardt Koehler

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

25X1

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

-7-

Fritz Koehler

Helmut Lindner

Walther Loewe

Fritz Roessler

Konrad Storch

25X1

1) stationed in Tiflis:

Erich Findeisen

? Wickleder

25X1

m) stationed in Riga:

name of the persons not known.

[redacted] all [redacted] were returned to Germany by air free of charge. In every case the specialists to be returned were taken to Moscow by escort and accommodated in either the Hotel Imperial or the Savoy Hotel. Their stay in Moscow varied from 3 to 7 days, during which time they had complete freedom of movement.

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. Number of People Employed: [redacted] the factory employs about 1,200 to 1,500 workers in 3 shifts.

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. Organization of the Factory: [redacted] a rough Organizational chart giving details of the structure of the factory together with some names of the Russian Officials, [redacted] is attached hereto as Annexure "B".

25X1

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SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION**SECRET**

**SECRET****SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**

-8-

## 8. News about the Zeiss Group in Kiev:

25X1

[redacted] In the beginning the Zeiss group, which consisted of about 48 technicians with their families, was accommodated in a sanatorium in Pushcha-Voditsa situated about 15 km North West of Kiev town center. They were taken daily by open lorry to their place of work in the Arsenal of Kiev town, situated in position 2 indicated on the attached overlay Enclosure (C)

25X1

[redacted] for Kiyev (6080) compiled in April 1950. In the autumn of 1948 they were given other accommodation very near to their place of work in a modern block of flats, situated in position 3 on the attached overlay Enclosure (C) The German specialists only had a short walk along the railway line running in a northerly direction just outside the Arsenal area and entering through a gate near the round tower marked with an "X".

25X1

[redacted] they were engaged as instructors to Russian workers on the production of photographic equipment, telescopes, binoculars and possibly warlike materials. [redacted] the working methods employed in the arsenal were rather primitive and perhaps even round-about. The quality of the work was rather poor and the Germans also complained about the quality of the raw materials and the slowness of same arriving.

25X1

[redacted] Dr. Ing. Herbert Schorsch, Dipl. Ing. Hess, Karl Foerster and Walther Baumbach. Dr. Schorsch was originally stationed in Leningrad, but was transferred in the spring of 1949 to Kiev, as he was the only German specialist in Russia, who could get certain dismantled German machinery into working order. He was also the highest paid German of the Zeiss group with a monthly salary of 5,800 Rubles.

25X1

[redacted] Baumbach was the local SED representative, who despite his party leanings disapproved strongly of the Russian inspired informants system. [redacted] the German specialists of the Zeiss group were very well paid, the lowest salary being 2,000 Rubles per month.

[redacted] the Zeiss specialists were very restricted. Only in the immediate neighbourhood of their living quarters they were allowed to move without an escort, although they had to register with the guard sitting at the entrance of their quarters. If the men or women wanted to go into town to effect purchases in the large stores or bazaars they had to ask for a special escort. This escort accompanied a group of people to the shop, where the buyers completed their purchases and met again at a pre-arranged hour to be escorted back. Similar escorts were provided when individuals wanted to visit the Opera, the Post Office etc. The only person allowed to go out without an escort between 07.00 and 08.00 hrs was Frau Baumbach, who had permission to visit the local Bazaar to purchase food for the unmarried members of the group. This permission was granted in the late spring of 1950.

All the German specialists have been pressing the Russian Authorities to be allowed to return to Germany, but without avail. Even letters were sent to Stalin himself, but a reply was never received.

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION****SECRET**



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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-9-

## 9. Factory in Kiev Producing Tank Tracks:

25X1

Herr Ernst Witte arrived in Kiev towards the end of 1947 from Sofiewka, a township about 30 km distant from Saporosche. Witte had been deported together with about 40 other specialists from AUE/Erzgebirge as employees of the cutlery firm A. Wellner. Witte was responsible for the assembly and supervision of German machinery for the production of all types of table cutlery. He returned to Sofiewka in September 1948 and was repatriated to Germany with all his colleagues in December 1948. The exact position of this tank factory is shown in position 5 on the attached overlay /Enclosure (D) for Kiev (6080)

## 10. Factories under Construction:

2 important new factories were under construction, both of which were more or less completed except for the inside. One factory as shown in position 4 on the attached overlay /Enclosure (D) for Kiev (6080)

25X1

was to house a large tank production plant. The other factory was erected in the suburb of Darnitsa on the other side of the river Dnepr in position 6 on the attached overlay /Enclosure (E) for Kiev (6080)

This latter factory was to house the production of the optical equipment, which in 1950 was located in the Arsenal. Apart from factory buildings also residential accommodation was built.

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## ENCLOSURES:

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- (B) Organization chart of factory in Kiev
- (C) Overlay
- (D) Overlay
- (E) Overlay

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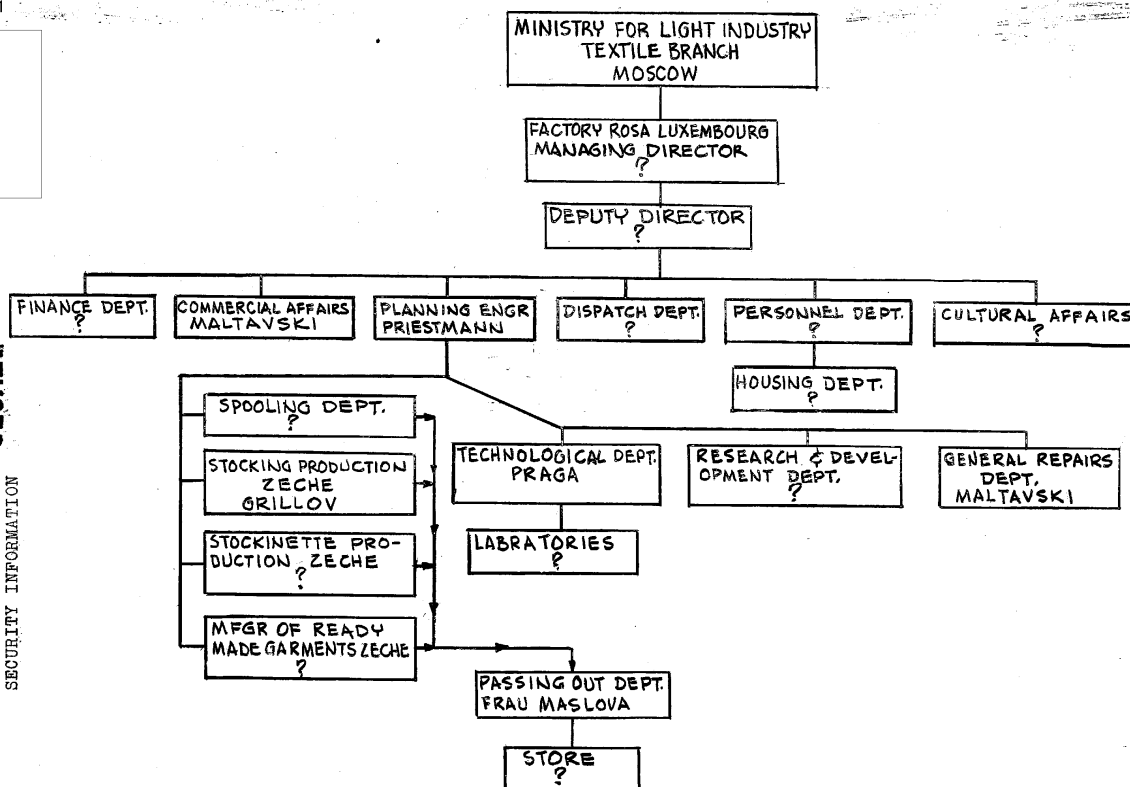
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SECURITY INFORMATION



ENCLOSURE (E)  
Page 1 of 2

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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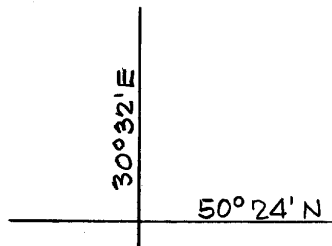
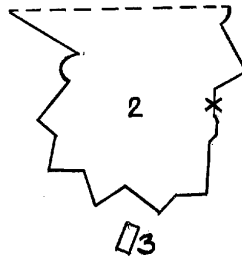
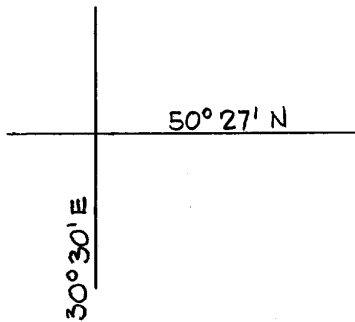
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SECURITY INFORMATION



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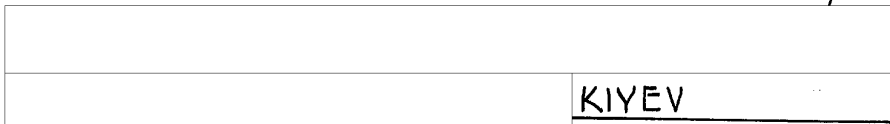
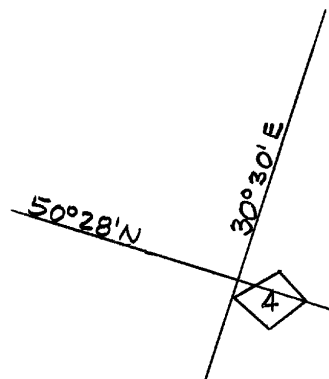
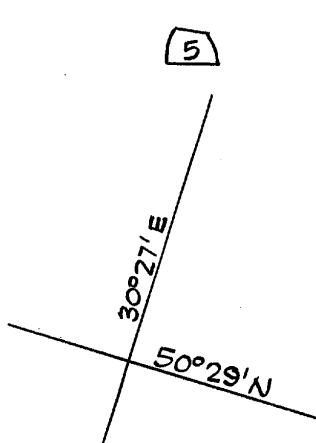
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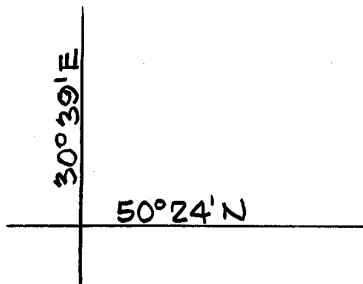
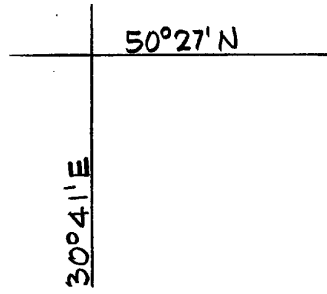
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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECRET